

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

24th December, 1960

## CHRISTMAS IN THE SUMMER SUNSHINE

*Australians cling to the customs of their Motherlands*

Since last Christmas, thousands of settlers have gone from Britain and other European countries to start life anew in Australia. This Christmas they will find the snow, and the log fires they knew so well, replaced by the heat of Summer in the southern continent. But the message of Christmas will be the same—a message of joy, of good will, and of peace among men. And there will be the same singing of carols, the cribs in churches, the families gathered together.

As church bells chime on Christmas Day in Australia, they will rouse thoughts of distant homelands, just as they did on that first Christmas celebrated in Australia—172 years ago.

When Christmas Day came in 1788, the first Australian settlers, mainly convicts and soldiers, were at Sydney. And as they stood in the open to listen to a sermon by the chaplain, the sun shone

harshly and a warm breeze thick with the smell of eucalyptus stirred the parched grass beneath their feet. Most of these men must have been thinking of England, of snow piling on kitchen window sills as housewives busied themselves preparing roast turkey, Christmas pudding, and mince pies.

Despite the heat of the Australian Summer, the colonial Australians continued to eat the traditional English Christmas dinner; and the custom, with many another, has been retained to this day.

Such customs of the Old Country were cherished by a small community in a new and lonely land; and as these people moved back the frontiers of settlement, they took with them the spirit of Christmas.

The Australian poet Henry Lawson summed up the philosophy that enabled the early Australians to shrug off the hardships of their pioneering life. Reflecting on his own birth in a tent on the New South Wales goldfields, he wrote:

*Does it matter? Which is stranger—  
Brick or stone or calico?—  
There was One born in a manger  
Nineteen hundred years ago.*

Australia has emerged as a thriving, industrialised nation of ten million people. But it is still a developing country to which migrant ships bring new blood and new ways every week. Today you

## TEA FOR THREE



A merry moment in the Mad Hatter's tea party in ABC's TV show for Christmas Day, *Alice Through the Looking Box*. Alice is played by Jeannie Carson, the Mad Hatter by Ron Moody, and the March Hare by Bernard Bresslaw.

### Greeting all friends



Coco the Clown framed in the long legs of Henry the Stilt-walker just before Bertram Mills Circus came to London for the Christmas season

will find in Australia not only the traditions of the English Christmas but of Christmas as it is celebrated from Rome to Amsterdam, from Athens to Helsinki.

City streets and shops are bright with coloured lights and Christmas trees. Giant figures of Santa Claus beam down on gay crowds as they jostle in search of presents. And as Christmas Day approaches the pace increases. There are last-minute presents to be bought, cards to be exchanged, cakes to be baked, and preparations to be made for annual vacations that usually come in the Christmas season. (Some factories and offices remain closed for two or three weeks.)

But the waifs who trudge through the snow in Europe to sing their carols outside homes have no real Australian counter-

Continued on page 2

## BALAL GETS THE FLIGHT OF HIS LIFE

Balal Ahmed Nassir has served the R.A.F. at Aden faithfully for over 30 years. An Arab motor transport fitter, he often gazed longingly at the airborne planes, wondering what his native land looked like from the skies. But always he decided sadly that such thrills were not for him; his place was on the ground.

Not long ago, however, someone realised that he had been at the

station longer than any other Arab worker. He was asked what he would like as a reward for devoted service, and with shining eyes, he replied: "To fly!"

The greatest day of Balal's life began when he climbed into the cockpit of a Meteor jet, piloted by the Station Commander himself. His wife and children were rapt spectators as earphones and oxygen mask were placed over father's head, and a lifejacket over his flying suit.

"It was an exciting moment," he said afterwards. "I saw the station the way the pilots see it. I was a little nervous at first, but I soon overcame that and enjoyed myself immensely."

**Wishing You All a  
Happy Christmas**



# FIRESIDE QUIZ

By the CN Parliamentary Correspondent

Here once again is a Christmas Quiz, based on Parliamentary and world affairs. See how many of the questions you can answer correctly; or, alternatively, make a little competition of them for your friends round the fire. Anyone who gets them all right certainly deserves a pat on the back—and an extra mince pie.



The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler

1. Mr. R. A. Butler is our Home Secretary, but he holds two other posts. Can you name them?
2. Which Commonwealth country is to become a republic next year?
3. Who are (a) the Minister of Transport; (b) the Postmaster-General?
4. Three countries make up the Central African Federation. Names, please.
5. Which lady back-bench Member of Parliament recently sat on the Government front bench to draw attention to a grievance?
6. Name the countries with which these men are associated: (a) Mr. Diefenbaker; (b) Mr. Lumumba; (c) Dr. Hastings Banda; (d) Mr. Nehru; (e) Mr. Nkrumah; (f) Mr. Robert Menzies.
7. Sir Winston Churchill recently celebrated his birthday. His age, please?
8. Who holds the title of Head of the Commonwealth?
9. How many States make up the United States of America?
10. What were the former names of (a) Ghana; (b) Indonesia; (c) Tasmania?
11. Our annual Budget is presented in a speech by (a) the Lord Chancellor; (b) the First Lord of the Treasury; (c) the Chancellor of the Exchequer?
12. Where does our Sovereign go to perform the State Opening of Parliament and make the Speech from the Throne?

## CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

1. Leader of the House of Commons and Chairman of the Conservative Party.
2. South Africa.
3. (a) Mr. Ernest Marples; (b) Mr. Reginald Bevins.
4. Southern Rhodesia, a self-governing colony, and the protectorates of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland.
5. Dame Irene Ward.
6. (a) Canada; (b) the (former Belgian) Congo; (c) Nyasaland; (d) India; (e) Ghana; (f) Australia.
7. Eighty-six.
8. The Queen.
9. Fifty.
10. (a) Gold Coast Colony; (b) Dutch East Indies; (c) Van Diemen's Land.
11. The Chancellor of the Exchequer.
12. To the House of Lords chamber.

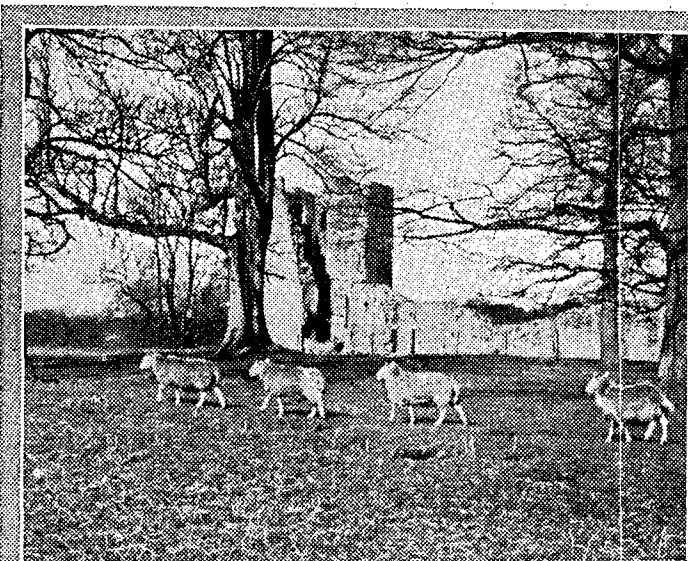
## Young Britain to the fore

Last Spring 10,000 British boys and girls from all types of schools were given tests that had already been taken by some 23 million young Americans. The tests were for "arm strength, arm power, abdominal endurance, speed and agility, sheer speed, leg power, and endurance for sustained activity."

The American Association for

Health, Physical Education, and Recreation has now published a report on the tests, with figures showing that British girls, on average, are 23 per cent. fitter, and the boys 14 per cent. fitter, than the young Americans.

Those hours we spend in the school gym and on the playing fields are well worth while.



## OUR HOMELAND

The centuries-old ruins of Brougham Castle, near Penrith. Westmorland.

## Legends of a Stable in Bethlehem

Many are the legends concerning the various creatures which were in the stable when Christ was born.

One of them tells how the oxen refused to eat their hay so that the Holy Babe might have the warmest and softest possible bed to lie on. Then, as it was cold, they came near and breathed gently upon the manger to keep the Child warm while doves flew down from the rafters and spread their wings about His head.

Another legend tells how the wren and the spider tried to help Mary in the stable at Bethlehem. Mary had been given a piece of fine linen to make a garment for the Child, but was unable to stitch it because she had forgotten to bring needle and thread. So the wren hunted for thorns and pine-needles while the spider busily made the thread. And that is the reason, runs the story, for the wren spending much of its time in thickets and woods, and for the spider being specially fond of spinning webs in sheds and stables.

## Votes from the Antarctic

The 27 New Zealand scientists in Antarctica were not forgotten in the recent general election in New Zealand.

Two officers of the Royal New Zealand Navy at Scott Base, the temporary home of these scientists, had been given a supply of voting papers and instructions to act as returning officers.

As a result, a few days before the people in New Zealand went to the polls, a ballot box with 27 ballot papers inside was flown 2,000 miles from Antarctica to Christchurch.

## Christmas Day in Australia

Continued from page 1

part. Instead, crowds gather beneath the stars on Christmas Eve to sing carols by candlelight.

The Carols by Candlelight pageant began in Melbourne 20 years ago and today is a national institution. In Melbourne as many as 150,000 people, each carrying a lighted candle, will gather in a city park to join the immense chorus of praise.

On Christmas Day itself children are up early to explore stockings and pillow cases, the mornings are taken up with church services, and at noon families and friends gather for Christmas dinner, with liberal helpings of turkey and plum pudding, despite the heat.

Many Australians eat their Christmas dinners outdoors at beaches and picnic spots, or beneath the shade of parkland trees. This is a custom of long standing. But, from the coastal cities to isolated cattle stations and mining camps, the pattern of Christmas Day throughout Australia is the same.

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Forty thousand salmon and sea trout eggs are to be flown as a gift from Britain to the Falkland Islands for the benefit of anglers.

Bournemouth is to give its council house tenants a rent-free week as a Christmas present. The cost will be £9,000.

Two brothers have travelled the whole of London Transport's Underground system—278 stations and about 340 miles. It took them 20 hours 27 minutes.

The Rolls-Royce company has developed an engine powered by natural gas. It will be used for oil drilling.

France has a new banknote for 500 new francs (about £36. 7s.). White, blue, and rust-coloured, it bears a portrait of Molière, the French playwright, and is watermarked with the profile of his wife, the actress Armande Béjart.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD

A prize-winning turkey at the National Poultry Show in London weighed 50 lb. 8 oz., a record. It was sold for £52.

An ice-free stretch of Antarctica's coast discovered by the Russian Antarctic Expedition in 1958 has been named Cape Lunik, after the moon rocket.

A church with a steeple of glass fibre is being built at Dartford, Kent.

### THEY SAY...

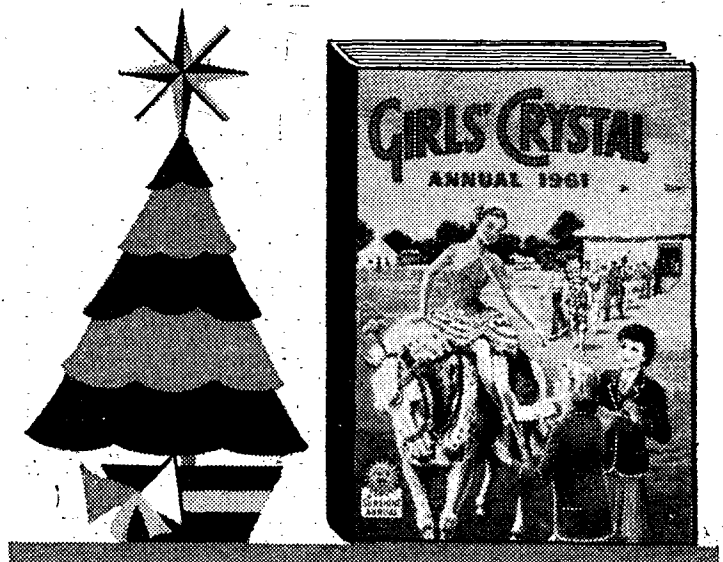
YOUNG photographers must experiment all the time. They must make an effort to get new angles on much-photographed subjects. Mr. Antony Armstrong-Jones

### Home of Fairies



Two visitors to the Chessington Zoo, Surrey, doubtless wishing they could get right inside the little building called the Fairies' House.

## WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT



14 exciting picture-stories, including: The Audacious Phantom Circle—Star in London—Their Wartime Adventures in Holland.

12 enthralling stories to read, including: The Uncle Who Vanished—Trixie's Diary—Penny's Punch Doll Puzzle.

160 pages, with full colour.

At all newsagents and bookstalls NOW!

**GIRLS' CRYSTAL ANNUAL 1961—8/6**

\* Price applies to U.K. only.



## Cecil Rhodes of England and Rhodesia

Nowhere in all Africa is the wind of change blowing more fiercely than in Rhodesia; and the developments it is bringing would surprise no man more than Cecil Rhodes, whose picture-story begins in *Children's Newspaper* next week.

The story of the founder of Rhodesia is the story of an Empire-builder with noble ideals—justice, liberty, and peace. He was born in 1853, son of the Vicar of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

### NEW FLAG FOR THE QUEEN



The Queen is to have a new personal flag. Pictured here, it has the Queen's initial, crown, and circlet of roses, all in gold on a blue ground.

The familiar Royal Standard has heraldic devices representing only the countries of the Motherland, not the Commonwealth countries of which the Queen is head. So the College of Arms was asked to design a flag for her personal use on occasions when the Royal Standard is inappropriate. It will be flown for the first time during her visit to India and Pakistan next Spring.

A quiet reserved boy, he gave little promise of the amazing

career that was to follow. At 17 he was sent to South Africa for his health, and it was there that he had his first dream of Empire. Three things he needed to make it come true: health, education, and wealth. Open air life gave him the first; the second he gained from going to and fro between South Africa and Oxford; and the third from mining diamonds and gold.

Cecil Rhodes scorned ease and luxury. Money to him simply meant power to pursue his ideal. A lion-hearted man, he faced danger coolly, as when he went unarmed among rebelling Matabele chiefs to "talk to them like a father."

### Cruel blow

He died in 1901 in the midst of a war that was a cruel blow after his lifelong efforts to bring English and Dutch-speaking South Africans together. It was one of several blows, for he was a man who made many mistakes; but he was also one who met disaster with unflinching calm and courage, and no one alive today would deny him greatness.

The story of Cecil Rhodes is both moving and thrilling. It starts on page eight next week. Do not miss it.

### Christmas dinner for 5,000 at sea

There are many people who must spend their Christmas Day on the high seas, among them being nearly 5,000 Britons bound for a new life in Australia.

These adventurous migrants are in five ships, including the fine new liner *Oriana*, whose 800 passengers have the added thrill of sharing a maiden voyage. On these five vessels the 5,000 will settle down to a Christmas dinner as guests of the Australian Government.

### LITTLE TRACTOR, BIG LOAD



Where plodding horses once pulled barges along the Grand Union Canal, a tractor now rolls along the towpath with a big load behind it.

Advertiser's announcement



Issued by the Gas Council.

## MR THERM'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

Elvis Scrooge the schoolmaster was so mean that he even kept his pupils in on Christmas Eve! And even when he finally went home, he didn't enjoy himself. "Christmas is all piffle-skiffle!" he said. But then a strange thing happened. Mr. Therm, the Spirit of Every Happy Christmas, suddenly appeared . . . and Scrooge suddenly realised that no one loved him . . . and that there was a lot of unhappiness in the world on Christmas Day . . .

SCROOGE hurried out of his digs, and hoped that the shops wouldn't have shut yet.

"Oh dear, oh dear!" he said to himself, "what a dreadful, nasty, mean old man I've been all these years. Skimping and scraping, and if I died to-night, no one would care."

He was quite out of breath when he got to the butcher's shop, which was, to his delight, still open and with some fine, fat turkeys in the window.

"Good evening, Mr. Scrooge," said the butcher, "I'll just wrap up your usual," and he cut one sausage off a string, and started to roll it in paper.

"No, no," said Scrooge, "I want a dozen fat, plump turkeys, the best you've got." And he emptied a great pile of money on the counter, to the butcher's great astonishment.

"Where shall I send them, Mr. Scrooge?" asked the butcher.

"I want you to send one to Cliff Cratchit, my head boy, and his family, and the rest to a children's home—I'll just write down the address."

Leaving the astonished butcher preparing the order, Scrooge hurried into a nearby grocer's, and there ordered so many puddings, cakes, sweets, jellies, crystallised fruits, nuts, oranges, crackers and bottles of squash that the assistant thought he'd gone raving mad, until Scrooge produced great wads of notes from his hoard.

He made several more arrangements—which we shall see in a moment—and then hurried home to bed and slept soundly.

The next morning, which was Christmas morning, he was up early, and out into the crisp air. The woman opposite nearly fell down with surprise when she saw Mr. Scrooge whistling!

At the corner of the street, Scrooge hailed a taxi—the driver nearly fainted dead away—and hurried round to see Mr. Dither.

"Good morning and a very merry Christmas to you, Mr. Dither," said Scrooge, smiling away all over his face. "I hear you've had some bad luck."

What had happened was that the father of Mr. Scrooge's head boy, Cliff Cratchit, had lent Mr. Dither a large sum of money for business, and Mr. Dither, for no fault of his own, couldn't repay it. With the result that the Cratchit family were ruined, and had no Christmas dinner!

"Oh yes, Mr. Scrooge," said Mr. Dither, "I'll be able to get the money back in the end, but not for months." "Never mind," said Scrooge, taking out his wallet, "I'll give you the money, and you take it round to the Cratchits right away."

MR. Dither stammered out his thanks, but Scrooge was already on his way. This time he went to the children's home, and saw the warden.

"I know you have lots and lots of little children here whose parents have abandoned them," said Mr. Scrooge. "Oh yes," said the warden, "and it's terrible because we haven't got any money to give them a proper dinner. We can't even afford to keep our gas fires going!"

"Oh yes, you can," said Scrooge. "I've got several fine fat turkeys coming round to you, and here's a sum of money that'll more than cover all your other costs. So let's get those gas fires blazing away, and light up the cookers. There's work to be done."

"Oh Mr. Scrooge, how can we ever thank you," cried

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**OUR PRIZE COMPETITION**  
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CAN you think of a slogan advertising gas for heating? Send it on a postcard to: Mr. Therm's Christmas Carol Competition No. 2, Children's Newspaper, 3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.). Mr. Therm will award £25. book tokens for the three best entries he receives by Friday, 30th December.

WINNERS. The jumbled word in our Time Rocket Competition No. 4 was MURDOCH. The three winners are Margot Hamblin of Hove, Peter Ellis of Ipswich, and Andrew Wilshire of Birmingham.

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MR THERM WISHES YOU ALL  
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
NEXT WEEK: DON'T MISS ANOTHER GRAND MR THERM SERIES

the warden with glee, and he ran to tell the children, and they all crowded round Mr. Scrooge, laughing and cheering, and shouting "He's a jolly good fellow."

"I'll be back," he said, "but now I must rush off," and Scrooge was off again, shouting "Merry Christmas" to everyone he passed, pressing half crowns into the hands of small children, oh, there'd never been such a sight.

He reached his nephew's house just as they were about to sit down for dinner. Immediately he went in the friendly warm atmosphere struck him—for his nephew had gas central heating. A delicious aroma of roast turkey struck his nostrils, and he heard his nephew's wife say: "Only gas could cook it so beautifully."

"Is there room for one more?" asked Scrooge. Everyone looked enormously astonished, but when this wore off they drew up a chair for him. Scrooge had brought presents for everyone, there was a nice new scarf for the nephew and toys for the children.

Oh, the dinner. There's never been such a turkey, golden brown and the flesh tender and sweet on the tongue. And there were bowls of peas and roast potatoes



and stuffing, and then a Christmas pudding so rich that it seemed to weigh a ton, and mince pies, all hot and juicy. His nephew's wife had cooked it all herself, on her gas cooker, and she said only gas could have given them such a super meal!

"Oh, Uncle Scrooge," said the nephew, "I always thought you'd enjoy life if only you gave it a chance!"

And so the day went on, and they played games and at teatime they went to the children's home, all warm now with the cheery gas fires, and the children had dined well and were all singing.

When the holidays were over, and Scrooge got back to school he went into the classroom frowning.

"I'm afraid I have bad news for you all," said Scrooge, solemnly. There was a groan.

"We shall all be working late to-night," he went on; "I doubt if any of us will get home before ten."

"Mean old Scrooge," muttered someone.

"I expect you want to know what we'll be doing, don't you?" said Scrooge, "we're going to the pantomime. Of course, if anyone doesn't want to come . . ."

There was a stunned silence for a moment, and then when everyone realised what he'd said there was a great shout.

"And you can all have a half holiday," said Scrooge, "because I'm getting super new gas fires in here so we'll be as warm as toast all the time. The men are coming this afternoon to put them in, so off you go. But don't be late to-night!"

And that evening Scrooge and his pupils and his nephew and the children from the home all sat in the boxes at the pantomime and they laughed and cried and gorged themselves on huge boxes of chocolates that Mr. Therm had provided.

"Oh, Mr. Scrooge," said Cliff Cratchit, "how can we ever thank you?"

"It's not me you should thank," said Scrooge, "it's Mr. Therm, we owe him such a lot."

And everyone smiled, and one of the children from the home put her hand in Scrooge's and said "God bless us, every one."

And that was Mr. Scrooge's merriest Christmas.

THE END



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMES

We need no guide to explore a Christmas stocking. One by one the treasures discover themselves—from the chocolates sticking out at the top to the tangerine in

the toe. But how easy then to miss (writes Ernest Thomson) some of the treasures on radio and television during all the other Christmas excitements!

Here, then, is a handy guide to spotlight many of the Christmas items on the sound and vision channels likely to be of special interest to C N readers.

## BBC TELEVISION

CHRISTMAS on B.B.C. Television begins in *Lookout* this Wednesday with the Nativity play performed by children of the Exmoor village of Bampton. The early preparations were filmed, and later the outside broadcast cameras were in the Parish Church to record the last three scenes—the shepherds in the fields, the visit of the Three Kings to Herod's palace, and the stable at Bethlehem.

Later in the evening viewers will be taken to Olympia, London, for a Royal performance of Bertram Mills Circus in the presence of the Queen and Prince Philip. Richard Dumbleby is the commentator.

On Thursday, Eamonn Andrews introduces a Christmas edition of *Crackerjack*, with Shirley Abicair among the guests. *Sketch Club*, on Friday has Picture Gallery telling "The Story of Christmas." The sketch subject set by Adrian Hill will be "The Nativity."

### New opera

The highlight of Friday evening is a new opera, *The Adventures of Alice*, specially composed by Antony Hopkins. Alice is played by Gillian Ferguson. Sonia Dresdel is the Red Queen, Marian Spencer the White Queen, and Ernest Milton the Mad Hatter. Gordon Murray's puppets also come into the picture.

Do you remember the Appleyards? This famous family of Junior TV have not been seen for 3½ years. On Christmas Eve they return—exactly the same cast as before—all exactly 3½ years older! Douglas Muir and Constance Fraser are Dad and Mum. Patricia Frier is Margaret, and David Edwards is John. Derek Rowe and Robert Dickens, who play Tommy and Ronnie respectively,



Tony Hilton and Brian Rix in a scene from the pantomime *Boobs in the Wood*, which will be seen on Boxing Day.

have done their National Service since we saw them last. *Christmas with the Appleyards* is written and produced by Kevin Sheldon.

The Orpington Girls' Choir have the honour of appearing before the Queen's television broadcast at noon on Christmas Day. The afternoon highlights include Billy Smart's Circus and a special edition of *What's My Line?* Then comes Harry Belafonte, the celebrated coloured singer, followed by a 90-minute spectacular programme, *Christmas Night with the Stars*, compered by David Nixon. Familiar faces reappear, all of them filmed in advance so that the stars themselves can spend Christmas at home.

Boxing Day in Junior TV begins *The Balloon and the Baron*. Dorothea Brookings, who wrote it, says it is not a pantomime, though it has a Fairy Godmother (Betsy Curdlecream). The Baron (Derek

Francis) is more of a muddler than a villain.

Next comes Charlie Drake's own Christmas programme, with excerpts from his previous shows. Charlie will describe them to twelve-year-old Prudence Uffland, making her TV debut. Later that evening *Boobs in the Wood* comes direct from the Whitehall Theatre.

## ON THE RADIO

RICHARD MURDOCK is the Knight-at-Arm's Length in the Children's Hour highlight, *The Sleeping Princess*, on Christmas Eve. Author Philip Bentinck calls it "an untraditional panto." Veteran radio comedian Leonard Henry is Simple Simon. Little Boy Blue-Nose is played by Fred Yule, Fanny the Nanny by June Spencer, and Princess Beauty by Barbara Leigh. The villagers are actually the George Mitchell Singers. We can also hear "noises-off, noises-on, courtiers, hop-pickers, and pop-hickers." Alan Paul has arranged the music.

### Christmas chimes

Chimes from many places will greet Christmas morning in the Home Service. Among the bells listeners will hear are those of Sheffield Cathedral; Ottery St. Mary Parish Church, Devon; Birmingham Cathedral; St. Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh; and the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

The Queen's Broadcast will be heard on the Home and Light Programmes at 12 noon on Christmas Day and repeated in the Home Service at one p.m.

Willfred and Mabel Pickles will be making their 22nd live broadcast from a children's hospital on Christmas afternoon—this time at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, London. During the afternoon listeners

TOM ARNOLD'S *Snow White on Ice* at Wembley is Associated-Rediffusion's first contribution to the Christmas festivities. This panto, the first *Snow White* on ice, comes to viewers on Friday afternoon in a special rehearsal preview. The show does not open to the public until Boxing Day. Jacqueline du Bief heads the skating stars as the Wicked Queen, with Sue Park as Snow White. This should make a wonderful TV spectacle. Apart from the skaters and the magnificent settings, there are Chocolate and Co., the famous ice clowns.

On Christmas Eve, ABC Television will network Disneyland favourites at tea-time. This will be followed by *Sinbad the Sailor*, an exciting film starring Douglas Fairbanks Junior.

The Queen's broadcast is being televised by ITV at three o'clock on Christmas afternoon. Then comes a Grand Christmas Circus from Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, followed by an Ice Spectacular, *The Sleeping Beauty*, from the Brighton Palladium.

Magician David Berglas comes into the picture at tea-time for

*Seeing is Misbelieving*, a half-hour programme of mystery including something never before attempted on TV. Six people place their hands on a table. Suddenly it rises in the air.

Outstanding among Christmas TV shows is ABC Television's *Alice Through the Looking Box*, a 90-minute fantasy on Christmas evening. Jeannie Carson plays Alice, a little girl who goes baby-sitting for Mr. and Mrs. Rae (Jackie Rae and Janette Scott). Mislaying the baby, she has to step into the TV screen to look for it. Characters she meets there include



Bob Monkhouse will be appearing as the Cheshire Cat in *Alice Through the Looking Box*

to the Light Programme can hear an unusual disc jockey, Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery. For an hour he will present his favourite music on gramophone records—songs from shows he has enjoyed, dance music, and choral music.

Children's Hour has two Christmas night plays *Mystery at the Theatre*, by Sally Morton, tells how "Clarion" reporter Nick (Michael Elder) discovers a first-class mystery behind the scenes during a panto performance at the Majestic Theatre.

*The Little Log-Sellers* by Margaret Potter and Trevor Hill, is a Children's Hour classic, first produced in 1953 and again in 1957. It is the story, told to music, of an old woodcutter whose two grandchildren try to sell logs in the Big City and enjoy the best Christmas they have ever known.

### Visit to the circus

On Boxing Day afternoon Light Programme listeners will be taken to Bertram Mills' Circus, with Wynford Vaughan Thomas describing the acts and Brian Johnston talking to circus folk behind the scenes.

Bing Crosby fans are in for a 45-minute treat on Boxing Day when he comperes a special disc show which he recorded in Britain recently.

Humpty Dumpty (Harry Secombe), Cheshire Cat (Bob Monkhouse), Caterpillar (Donald Pleasence), Duke of Larkin (David Kossoff), March Hare (Bernard Bresslaw), Mad Hatter (Ron Moody), and Dormouse (Ronnie Corbett). An incident from this play is pictured on page one. A 20-ft. high TV screen has been built to "shrink" Alice to a convenient size.

A.T.V.'s big offering on Christmas night is the *Tommy Steele Show*, with Tommy himself acting the Baron in a drama entitled *The Squire*.

Boxing Day on I.T.V. keeps up the holiday spirit with a monster round-up of the funniest shows of 1960, including Granada's *Hucklebury Hound* and *Bootsie and Snudge*.

### Arrival of St. Nicholas

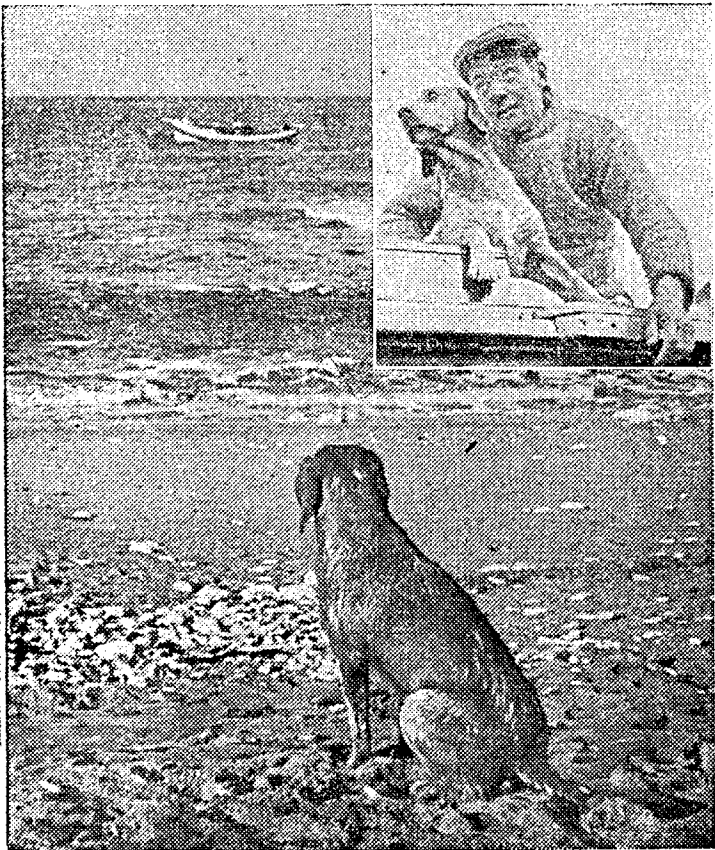
Do not forget Part Two of Peter Ling's *The Christmas Tree* on 27th December. Redvers Kyle, Muriel Young, and Peter himself are the guests. The programme includes film of the festival of the Arrival of St. Nicholas in Amsterdam, and a Mummies' play, *St. George and the Dragon*. Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is also featured with a dramatisation of the last chapter. We see Scrooge in surprising good humour when he opens the window to find, to his joy, that it is still Christmas Day.



Look out for Friday evening's opera *The Adventures of Alice*. Gillian Ferguson, who takes the part of Alice, is seen here with the Mad Hatter (Ernest Milton), Dormouse (Carla Challenor), and the March Hare (Cyril Shaps).



# SANDY THE SEA DOG



Every fisherman who sails regularly into the bay at Flam-borough, Yorkshire, is used to seeing Sandy the sea dog; or, if it is after dark, to hearing him barking ashore. For whenever George Emmerson is at sea in his brown coble, *Margaret Anne*, Sandy, a labrador, keeps constant watch for his return. And he never picks the wrong boat.

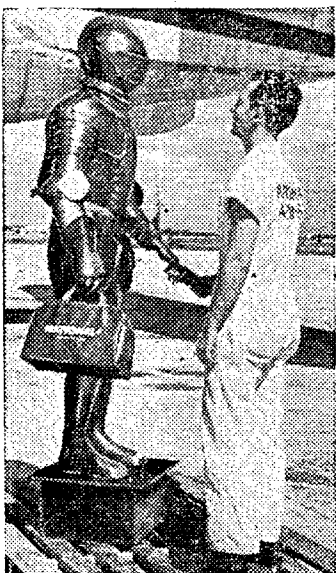
When, after hours of patient vigil, he sees *Margaret Anne* bobbing back through the waves, he swims out and with George's help scrambles aboard to sail with his master into harbour.



George Emmerson will never forget the grim Winter's day he was forced into another port by bad weather. He eventually got back in the middle of the night—and there was the sound of barking. Sandy the sea dog, icicles on tail, had been waiting 20 hours! After that George left orders ashore for Sandy to be kept in during very bad weather.

"But how," he asks, "can my dog recognise the *Margaret Anne* from a point where a landsman would need field glasses?" How, indeed?

## PROTECTED PASSENGER



A cameraman took this amusing shot at Miami Airport, Florida, when a suit of armour was being flown to Mexico.

## Green light on Bluebell Line

The now-famous Bluebell Line Railway Preservation Society held its first annual general meeting the other day; and a happy occasion it was, for in the three months after the opening of this little Sussex railway, it carried 15,000 passengers and earned £1,136 in fares.

With two locomotives and coaches bought from British Railways, the Society has a healthy credit balance of £1,539. With bookings heavy for the re-opening of the line next April, the green light is showing on the Bluebell Line.

## Helping hand from airmen and firemen

American airmen at the U.S.A.F. base at Chicksands, Bedfordshire, spend their leisure time repairing toys for orphan children. The toys are collected by members of Hertfordshire's fire brigade.

# Three of a happy band

These three girls—Jane Olenski, Janice Lane, and Janet Whitesmith—belong to a highly successful recorder band, which plays at concerts and socials in and around Stockport, Cheshire.

In 1956 a group of seven-year-old girls of Adswold Primary School took up recorder-playing. They found it such good fun that when they all reached the age of eleven, and had to disperse to various Grammar and Secondary Modern schools, they decided to go on playing together as a band, calling themselves the Adswold Musical Group. Their music master from the beginning, Mr. Kenneth Blackman, became their conductor.

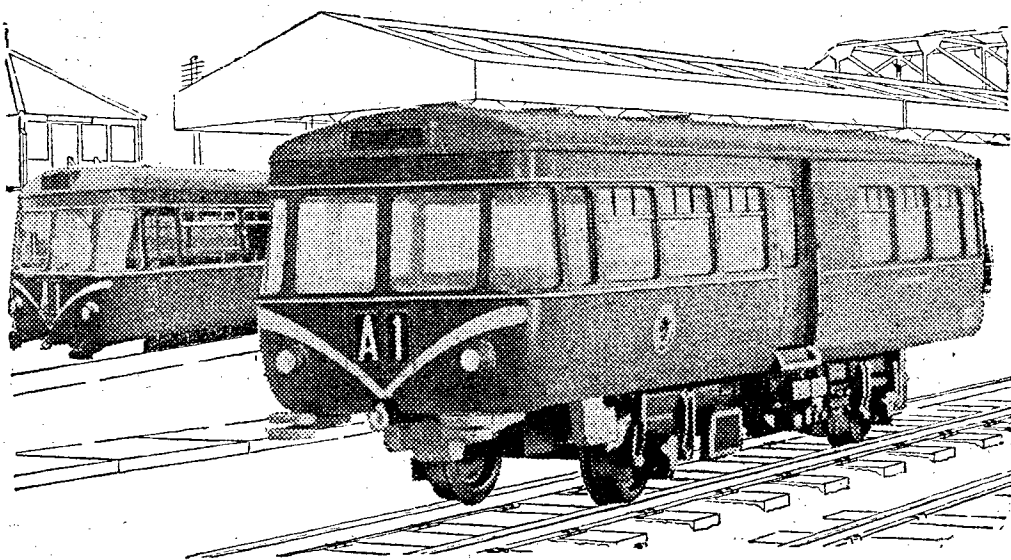
Starting in a small way by playing to gatherings of parents, they thus gained useful experience in performing before an audience. Their repertoire includes the



music of Bach, Mozart, and Handel besides more modern recorder music—rumbas, tangos, and so on.

Jane, Janice, and Janet are doubly useful to the group for

each of them can play the piano, too, and provide an accompaniment if needed. Incidentally, they all distinguished themselves recently by passing a Trinity College of Music exam with honours.



## Just like the real thing!

Believe it or not, the nearer one is the Airfix model of the Railbus, 00 gauge (Kit 3/-). Behind it is a picture of the real thing.

That's how wonderfully realistic Airfix models are. Close attention to every detail gives them their faithful-to-the-original look—makes them true collector's pieces. And every Airfix series is to a constant scale. This means Airfix models look proportionally right, one against another, because they are right! You can't beat Airfix for realism—or value.

# AIRFIX

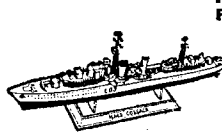
## Constant Scale Construction Kits

From Model & Hobby Shops, Toy Shops, and F. W. Woolworth.

There are over 100 Airfix models from 2/- to 10/6



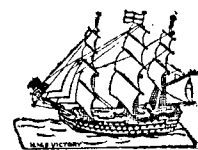
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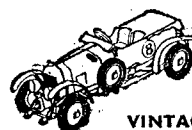
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H.M.S. Victory 2/-



VINTAGE CARS  
1930 Bentley 2/-

T260A

## STOP PRESS!

### Latest Airfix Production



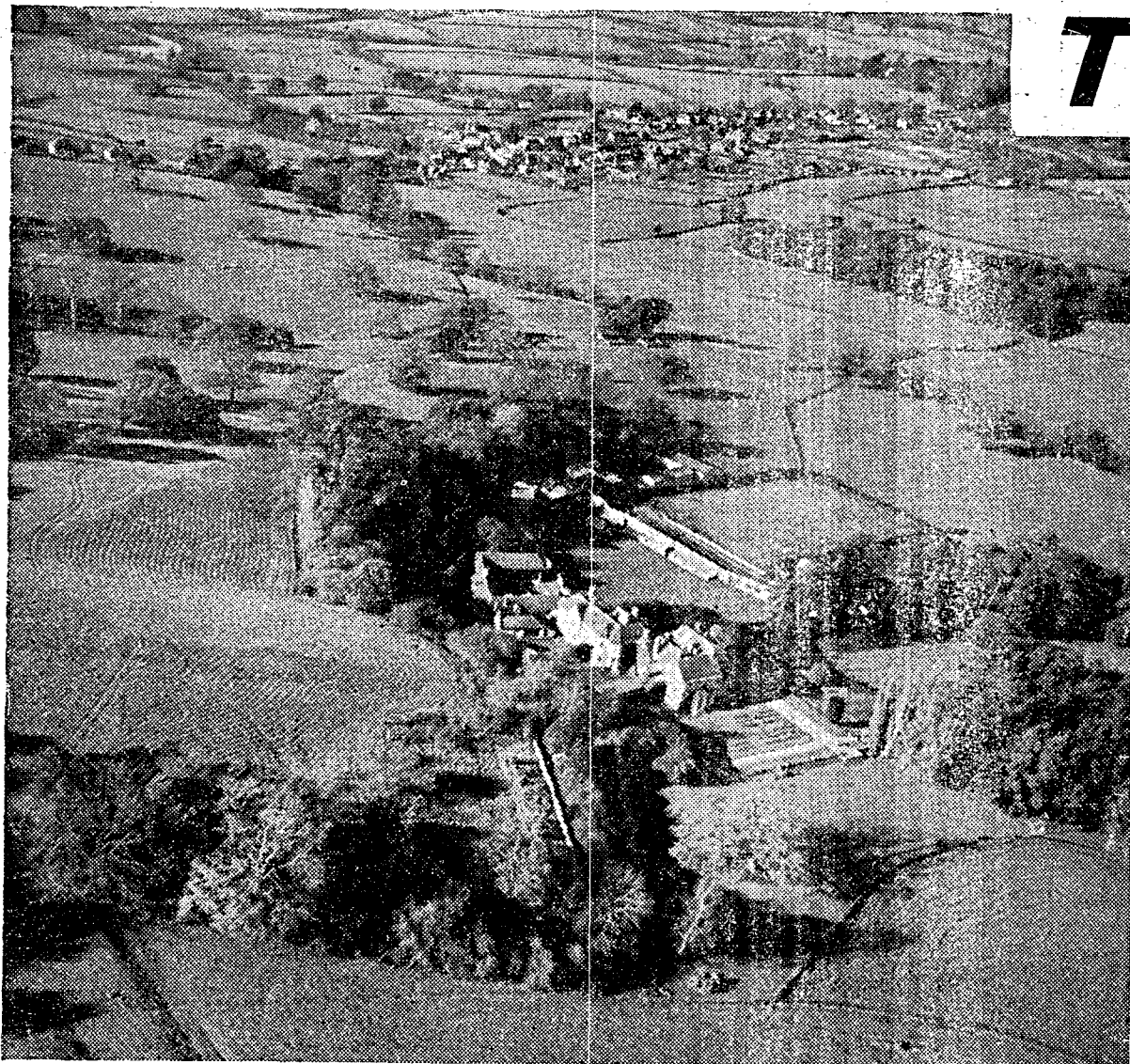
Douglas C-47 DAKOTA

A magnificent 1/72nd scale model of the world famous transport aircraft. Realistic in every detail, it has a 16-inch wing span, many moving parts, and is boxed complete with alternative U.S.A.F. and Silver City Airways marking transfers. Including adhesive and display stand, 6/-.

Also new: HAWKER HUNTER, the standard R.A.F. day fighter, 3/-, and DEFIANT night fighter, 2/-, Both 1/72nd scale.



# THEY CAME



The Pestalozzi Children's village in Sussex, with the old village of Sedlescombe beyond

If you were to look through the windows of a certain house on a hillside in Sussex you would see a lot of boys and girls round a Christmas tree. Now you may think there is nothing remarkable in that. What is remarkable is that they could wish you a happy Christmas in Latvian or Polish, in Finnish, or perhaps Ukrainian. They are the children of refugees, tragic victims of the Second World War; and they have found a new home in England—in the Pestalozzi Children's Village not far from Hastings.

Here, at this time of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All Men, we tell the story of children who came from many lands to find peace and goodwill in a new village in Sussex by the sea.

ONE day in London, some years ago, five people were sitting round a table talking of the terrible plight of Europe's refugees. They were talking, too, about the Children's Village for war orphans which had been started in Switzerland.

Something more must be done, they decided, for the unhappy children both of the Continent and of Britain. But they had no money to do it with. Then one of them held out a saucer and each of the five put a sixpence into it. The scheme had started—with a fund of half a crown.

But from small beginnings came big results. In about three years of hard work they provided two houses, each with 16 British children, at the original Pestalozzi Children's Village in Switzerland. Named after the Swiss educational pioneer, Heinrich Pestalozzi, it is called Trogen and is near Lake Constance.

The next step was to found a similar village in England. This has now been done, the nucleus of the village being an old stone manor-house at Sedlescombe, near Hastings, with about 30 children



Thinking o

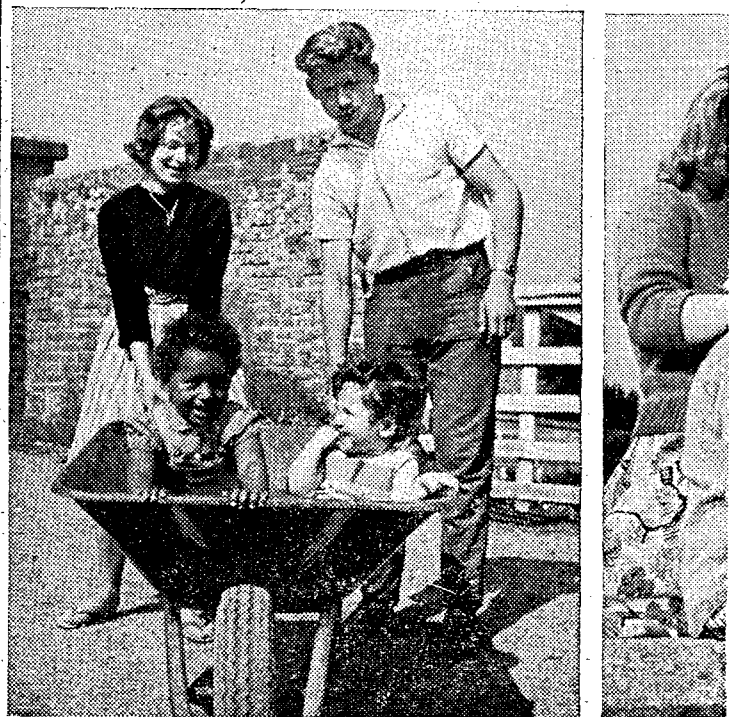
and staff. And work has started on the site, farther up the hill, where there will be 16 houses, each for 16 boys and girls of the same nationality. There will be an English house, a Polish house, an Italian house, and so on, each with "house parents" of the appropriate country. There will also be two international houses, each for about 35 children.

The first of the international houses is already occupied, and a splendid house it is, built of Canadian cedar—warm, light and airy. There are small dormitories with four beds in each and gay patchwork bedcovers. Each child has a private locker for personal possessions. Though, alas, on arrival, most of them have little but the clothes they stand up in.

All the children go back every Summer to visit any relatives they



Carols rejoice the heart in whatever language they are sung

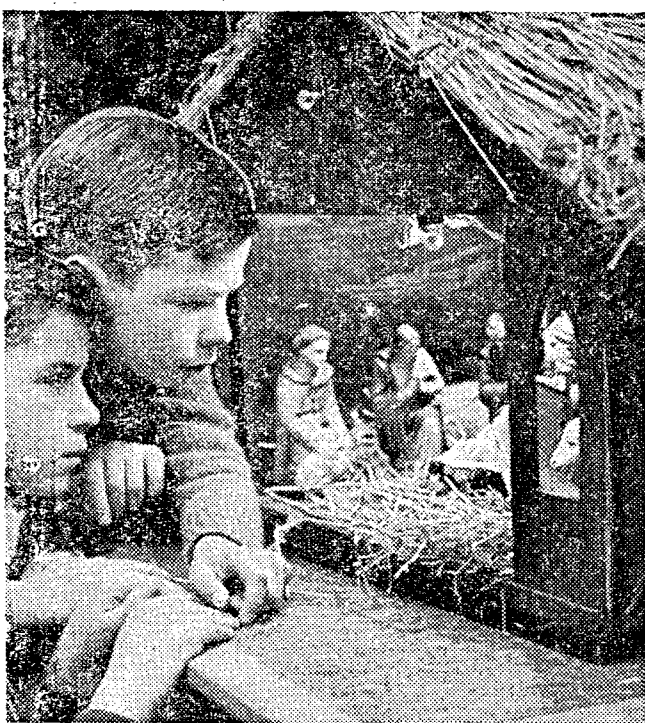


A jolly "pram" ride for two Staff babies



14th December, 1960

# WELCOME TO A VILLAGE



of the Child who was born in a stable



Everyone helps in the kitchen



Christmas greetings in a double-decker bunk

may have. Though they live in England, learn to speak English, and go to school in the nearby town of Battle, they are encouraged to keep in touch with their native land, if possible, and to speak their native tongue in their houses.

## English lesson

The chairman, Dr. Alexander, told the CN that he overheard an out-of-school English lesson one day. Richard, an English boy, was showing his white mice to Roman, a Polish boy.

Said Roman (doing his best): "Oh, two mouses."

Richard eyed him sternly. "Two mouses," he said, "make mice."

But it does not take them long to learn English. One member of the staff says he knows that they are really getting on well when

they tell him they have begun to dream in English.

The Secondary Modern School at Battle is now quite used to Pestalozzi villagers, especially as a number of them are very useful members of the football and hockey sides. On their very first morning, when the school bus called, the newcomers were astonished to find the English boys standing up to give them their seats. At first, of course, the strangers were stared at, and they disliked it; but everyone soon settled down without awkwardness.

Many of the children have known terrible conditions in Germany. One boy, fetched from Dover by the chairman, arrived one evening in the courtyard outside the front door. He looked at the windows and asked in German, "How many families?" To

him, one window meant one room, and one room meant a whole family living in it.

Not every arrival finds life easy after running wild in a camp. There are chores in kitchen and garden to be done. There are rules, too. "If you break something, mend it; if you make something dirty, clean it," and so on. But they soon find out that this life which makes new demands is well worth while. In this new home on a Sussex hillside there is hope for the future, and friends to help.

One new boy walked out on to the lawn which looks out over a half-mile sweep of parkland with a view of a wooded valley beyond. After staring at it for a while, he said:

"I thought things like this were only in fairy books."



A little boisterous fun in the lovely garden of the Children's Village



No music can compare with the music we make ourselves



English sounds very strange till you get used to reading it



# Reindeer, robin, and mistletoe

THE animal, or strictly the mammal, that most of us associate with the Christmas season is the reindeer; and if it be objected that as a foreigner he should have no part in a British Christmas, it can be pointed out that he isn't really a foreigner at all.

In prehistoric times the reindeer was a native British beast—one that must have got here by walking across the bed of the North Sea when it was still dry land some eight or nine thousand years ago. As late as the middle of the 12th century, only 800 years ago, there were still reindeer living in the forests of the far north of Scotland.

## Imported from Sweden

And today there are reindeer in Scotland again, for the Reindeer Council of the United Kingdom has brought some over from Sweden; you can see them any day if you go to Aviemore in the Spey valley in the Highlands of Scotland. The Council hopes that one day there will be reindeer again on all the high hills and mountains of northern Scotland.

So much for the reindeer as the Christmas mammal. There is certainly no doubt as to which bird is an emblem of Christmas. It is the robin, which in the older books you will find called the robin redbreast, or even just the redbreast.

Yet the reason why we see so many robins on Christmas cards

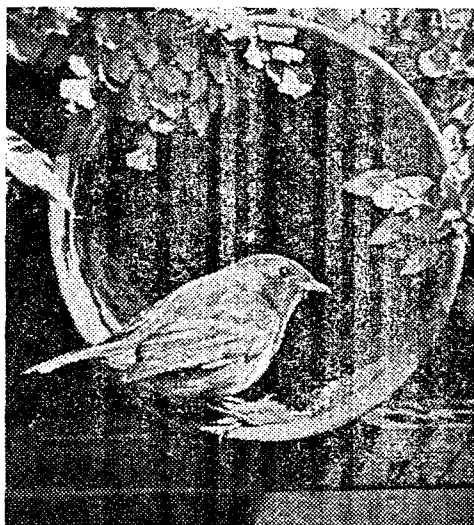
is a curious one. A hundred years ago postmen did not wear the dark blue uniform that is so familiar today. They had red waistcoats, just like the robin, and so were often nicknamed "robin postmen." It was just about this time that the sending of Christmas cards first became fashionable, so it is not surprising that the robin bird became a popular picture to put on the cards that were going to be delivered by the robin postmen.

There are three plants especially associated with Christmas—the mistletoe, the holly, and the ivy—but I think the mistletoe deserves first place. It is a very curious plant, a parasite on trees or shrubs, which always grows with its roots in the wood of its host.

## Sacred mistletoe

For many centuries the mistletoe has been regarded as a sacred plant, and you will find it mentioned as such in the myths and legends of both the Ancient Romans and the old Norsemen. It is in fact the "golden bough", which gave its name to a famous work by Sir James Frazer on the habits and customs of primitive peoples.

Kissing under the mistletoe must be one of the most ancient customs we still practise, and it



Perky little robin in a greenhouse

is still popular enough to make it worth while for owners of orchards in Normandy and the West of England to plant mistletoe on their apple trees to sell for the Christmas market.

The holly and the ivy are linked in a delightful old song, largely because they are two of our commonest evergreen plants and so come in very handy for Christmas decorations. The decorating of houses with evergreens is another very ancient custom, dating back to pagan times.

The Christmas tree itself, however, is quite a modern idea, which arrived in Britain about the same time as the robin and the Christmas card. This is not surprising, for the Norway spruce, which makes far the best Christmas tree owing to its spire-like shape, is not a native tree in Britain.

RICHARD FITTER

# ON RECORD

## New discs to note

**ALBENIZ:** *Iberia* on Decca LXT 5598. The famous Spanish composer Albeniz began his career as a concert pianist at the age of four, and his suite *Iberia* was written for piano. Later it was orchestrated and it is that version we hear on this disc, played by L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. There are many dance rhythms, of which the most exciting is that of *El Puerto*, the harbour. (LP. 38s. 1½d.)

**CLASSICAL INDIAN MUSIC**, introduced by Yehudi Menuhin on Decca LXT5600. Menuhin introduced a group of Indian musicians to this country during the last Bath Festival, and since then they have toured Great Britain. This is a fascinating recording and Menuhin introduces each piece, giving background information. (LP. 38s. 1½d.)

**LITA ROZA:** *Drinka Lita Roza Day* on Pye NPL18047. This invitation to sample Lita Roza's singing offers us a number of favourites including *How Deep Is The Ocean*, *Don't Get Around Much Any More*, and *Porgy*. A jazz group does the accompanying and Lita Roza has never sung so well. (LP. 34s. 1½d.)



**THE PLANETS:** *Like Party and Lppy Yippy Beatnik* on Palette

PG9008. This is a 'fun' record just right for background music at a party. The group play with a rock beat, everyone claps hands and hums now and again. (45. 6s. 4d.)

**EVE BOSWELL:** *Following The Sun Around* on Parlophone PMC 1105. Eve has chosen a dozen songs which conjure up a picture of sunshine and gaiety. Whether she is aboard a *Slow Boat To China* or saying *Goodbye To Rome*, she sounds as fresh and bright as always. (LP. 34s. 1½d.)



**WALLY WHYTON and WILLUM:** *Nursery Rhymes, Play Songs, and Lullabies* on Parlophone GEP8808. Pussy Cat Willum and his friend Wally Whyton sing their own song, *Willum and Me*, as well as several favourite children's songs. This would make an ideal present for the youngest member of the family. (EP. 11s. 3½d.)

**EILEEN DONAGHY:** *Ireland's Requests* on Fontana TFL5109. Over the past few years Eileen has become a top favourite with those who like to hear the songs of Ireland. On this recording there are such familiar melodies as *The Lark In The Clear Air* and *Upon The Derry Road*. (LP. 35s. 9½d.)

## HERO OF QUEBEC—the story of General James Wolfe (Final instalment)

THE SCOTTISH OFFICER'S REPLY SATISFIED THE SENTRY. FARTHER ON, WOLFE'S MEN LANDED AND SILENTLY SCRAMBLED UP TO THE CLIFF-TOP WHERE THEY TOOK THE HANDFUL OF ENEMY SOLDIERS BY SURPRISE.



WHEN MONTCALM HEARD THAT THE BRITISH WERE ON THE PLAINS OF ABRHAM, HE THOUGHT THE MEN WHO HAD BROUGHT THE NEWS MUST BE MAD. AT DAYBREAK HE SAW THE TRUTH FOR HIMSELF...



HASTILY ASSEMBLING HIS FORCES, MONTCALM LED THEM OUT ONTO THE PLAINS. THEY ADVANCED AND FIRED, MAKING GAPS IN THE BRITISH LINES...



THE TWO ARMIES HAD NEARLY CLOSED WHEN WOLFE ORDERED HIS TROOPS TO FIRE VOLLEYS WHICH THREW THE FRENCH INTO CONFUSION.



THE BRITISH CHARGED. WOLFE WAS HIT IN THE GROIN, BUT RAN ON. THEN HE WAS STRUCK IN THE CHEST, STRAGGERED A FEW PACES AND FELL INTO THE ARMS OF A LIEUTENANT...



THEY CARRIED HIM TO THE REAR, WHERE HE DIED A FEW MINUTES LATER. HIS GALLANT ENEMY, MONTCALM, ALSO DIED OF WOUNDS. HAPPY, HE SAID, NOT TO SEE THE SURRENDER OF QUEBEC...



SIXTY EIGHT YEARS LATER, CANADIANS OF BOTH FRENCH AND BRITISH DESCENT COMBINED TO ERECT A MEMORIAL BEARING THE NAME MONTCALM ON ONE SIDE AND WOLFE ON THE OTHER....



A PICTURE-STORY OF CECIL RHODES, FOUNDER OF RHODESIA, BEGINS NEXT WEEK



The Children's Newspaper, 24th December, 1960

# THE CONWAYS TAKE COVER

by Geoffrey Morgan

Fergie and the Conways suspect Dr. Bredon of working on a secret wreck in the river. After a piece of salvage bearing the letters O-O-D . . . I-N . . . is stolen from them, they read in old newspaper reports that the wreckage of a fishing boat, sought by the police in connection with missing gold bars from a steamer at Antwerp, has been found by Captain Boniface in the North Sea. Among the wreckage is a lifebuoy containing a fishing boat's registered number SH 142, and this suggests that the wanted boat sank in a gale. But Jerry thinks the sinking at sea was faked and that the wanted boat is the wreck on which Dr. Bredon is working. He telephones the Customs at Swinmouth and discovers that the name of SH 142 is the Good Intent.

## 11. Another call on the coastguard

JANE repeated the name to herself as she watched Jerry and Fergie across the table in a café next to the newspaper office. *Good Intent* . . . It was such a nice name for a boat that it did not seem possible it could be associated with anything sinister. Yet there could be little doubt now that it was the name of the mystery wreck lying on the riverbed off Gullmarsh Island. The

planation of how easily he had got the information.

"Yes, he did ask me," Jerry nodded. "I gave him the same line as you gave Mr. Thompson. Said I was making a record of all local wrecks over the past year and as I had some details of the SH 142, I wondered if the boat had a name. He seemed to take the whole thing quite casually, just told me to hang on while he looked up their records, and then came back with the name."

### "We have the name"

"Funny, he didn't want to know more about you," Fergie commented. "I mean, in view of the missing gold and all that."

"Maybe he was a new boy or just an office junior who didn't know the whole story," Jane suggested.

"Well, what does it matter, anyway?" Jerry decided. "The important thing is we have the name and we can be practically certain that the *Good Intent* is the wreck in the river." He stirred the refilled cup of tea Jane had just passed him. "Dr. Bredon—and I bet he's no doctor—must either be the leader of the crooks who stole the gold or he got to know of their plan to fake the sinking and scuttle the boat in the river."

Jane murmured. "Buying Gullmarsh, wrecking the plane, using that ketch; the gold in the wreck must be worth a fortune."

"At twelve pounds or so an ounce you wouldn't need many bars of it for a fortune," was Jerry's dry comment. "Which means that it shouldn't take them long to lift it, so we haven't got much time if we're going to do anything about it." He frowned anxiously. "Trouble is we haven't a scrap of proof at the moment. We can't go to the police with nothing to back up our story. Even if they believed us and interviewed Bredon, he's too jolly clever to give his show away. And by the time they get divers out to examine the boat, his frogmen would have destroyed all evidence of identity and buried any remaining gold in the mud." He frowned again. "Pity the skipper's in London. He's not due back till tomorrow evening and I don't know where to contact him."

### Best solution

"And you know my father's away till the weekend," Fergie reminded them. "We've got to confide in somebody. Somebody who'll listen to us."

"Well, how come you've forgotten Mr. Thompson?" queried Jane. "He does know a little about the business. He was coming to look at the salvage in the morning. You can understand now why he doesn't know anything about the wreck; but he's sure to be interested in what we've discovered."

Fergie nodded.

"I think he's our best solution," he agreed. "He must have heard about the finding of the wreckage of SH 142 at sea; but he didn't mention it because we quizzed him only about wrecks in this area. He wouldn't know about the scuttled boat because they'd have crept into the river at night."

### A good story to tell

"That's right," Jerry agreed. "When we tell him the salvage was stolen and we support it with the story we've now discovered, he's sure to take some action himself. We'd better go straight to Sandy Point now."

Fergie rose and paid the bill.

"We can get a bus direct from here to Sandford," he said.

But when they reached his cottage more than an hour later Mr. Thompson was not at home. They walked round the house and then knocked and rang the bell again although it was obvious the place was deserted.

"Well, he's not out in the car," Fergie announced, reappearing from around the corner of the garage. "This place is locked, too,

and I've just seen the car through the window." He joined the Conways at the gate. "I wonder if he's down with his boat."

"So he has a boat as well?" queried Jane.

"Yes. A small launch. Keeps her just inside the river." Fergie stepped out into the lane and headed towards the cliffs. "If we follow this path it brings us out to a bit of a beach and a jetty. That's where he usually keeps his boat."

The Conways followed their friend along a well-trodden path which led to a small bay in the river mouth. At the end of the path a narrow jetty ran to the edge of the deep water channel. But there was no boat there, and the little bay and the river were deserted.

### Frustration

Fergie sighed with frustration. "He's obviously out somewhere in his launch," he said. "No telling where—or when he'll be back. Might be a duty run."

"Well, let's face it," Jerry said, sombrely. "We're not likely to see him this evening—with the last bus back to Potter's Quay in half-an-hour. Better come over first thing in the morning."

"I'm with you there," Jane agreed. "I don't want to walk home, I guess. But couldn't we push a note through his door?"

"That's it," Jerry's expression brightened. "Say we've something top secret to tell him and we'll be over again in the morning. That ought to give him an

idea we are on to something important."

"Sounds fine," Fergie said without much enthusiasm. "But with all this evidence corked up inside us what are we going to do with ourselves when we get back to Potter's Quay?"

"What's wrong with a twilight sail?" Jerry countered, and added with a twinkle: "Towards Gullmarsh Island."

### The strange launch

They returned to Mr. Thompson's cottage, wrote the note, and saw it safely through the letter-box; then they caught the bus at Sandford, and less than half-an-hour later were ghosting down river in *Whisper* before a gentle evening breeze.

As they drew near a ground floor light was visible in the house on Gullmarsh Island but there were no lights on the moored ketch. She appeared to be as deserted as the jetty.

"Better not venture too close," Jerry suggested anxiously.

Fergie nodded and pushed down the helm, and as the dinghy spun round, Jane spoke:

"There's another launch tied up at the jetty. Too big for a yacht's tender. A visitor, I guess."

Fergie stared across at the two boats, and then suddenly snatched up the binoculars.

"It's incredible!" he gasped at length. "That other launch—it's —Thompson's boat! . . ."

To be continued



In the café they discussed the startling information Jerry had acquired from the Customs officer

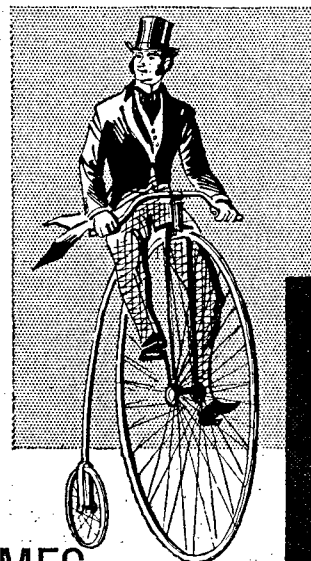
odd five letters they had found on the broken stern rail fitted in perfectly, but as yet they still had to prove its identity with SH 142. As she listened to the two boys talking she wondered just how they proposed to do this.

They had retired to the café to discuss the startling information Jerry had acquired from his telephone talk with the Customs at Swinmouth, and to decide their next move.

"Didn't the Customs chap want to know why you were interested?" Fergie asked, when Jerry had given his first full ex-

"I should say he was in it from the start," Fergie said. "Planned the whole thing. I told you I'd seen that ketch in the river early this year. He bought Gullmarsh Island, settled in and gave everyone the impression it was a field study base; then to ensure no one would suspect his real purpose he got his pilot to bring that plane down in the river almost on top of the scuttled boat, handing out that story about salvaging special equipment. It's a first-class plan of getting away with a daring robbery, if you ask me."

"A pretty costly plan, I guess,"



## HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

In 1872, it was not uncommon to see people riding bicycles with front wheels over 5 ft. high and rear ones less than 1 ft. in diameter. These were the famous "Penny-farthings"! The cyclist sat high up over the pedals which were attached to the front wheel. With solid rubber tyres, they were, to say the least, uncomfortable machines.

Today's bicycles are sleek, handsome and, above all, comfortable. In 1888 John Boyd Dunlop invented the first practical pneumatic tyre, a device which has made cycling safer and more comfortable for all of us.

# DUNLOP

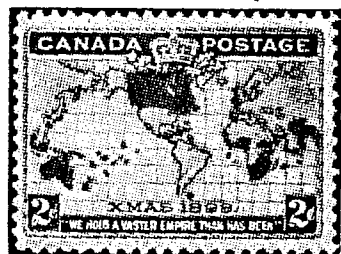
SYMBOL OF PROGRESS

Have you seen the new Dunlop film "Mend that Puncture"? Shows you how to do it! Available on free loan from Dunlop Film Library, Wilton Crescent, Merton Park, London, S.W.19. For 16 mm. sound projectors only.



# The First Special Christmas Stamp

PEOPLE in all parts of the British Empire greeted Christmas Day in the year 1898 with even greater joy than usual. On that day, for the first time, it became possible to send a letter almost anywhere in the Empire at a cost of one penny. Only Cape Colony, Australia, and New Zealand were excluded from the scheme, partly because of their great distance from the Mother Country.



Canada marked the beginning of Empire Penny Postage by issuing a special stamp with a face value of two cents, then equal to one penny. The Postmaster-General of Canada himself de-

signed the stamp, which showed a map of the world with the British Empire in red. At the foot of the stamp are the words "We hold a vaster Empire than has been," a line from a poem written in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887.

Many stamps have since been issued to celebrate Christmastide, but this historic Canadian issue was the first. Although the postage on an inland letter has now risen to threepence, for that sum we can still write by sea-mail to any part of the Commonwealth.

ONE of the most famous Christmas carols is that which tells the story of *Good King Wenceslas*. He was the ruler of Bohemia, now part of Czechoslovakia. Carrying food, wine, and firewood to the poor was only one of his many acts of Christian charity.



In the year 929 the saintly King Wenceslas was martyred by jealous pagan members of his own family.

One thousand years later, in 1929, Czechoslovakia issued a special series of stamps in his honour. In 1948 his portrait appeared on two more stamps, this time with King Charles IV, who founded the University of Prague 600 years before.

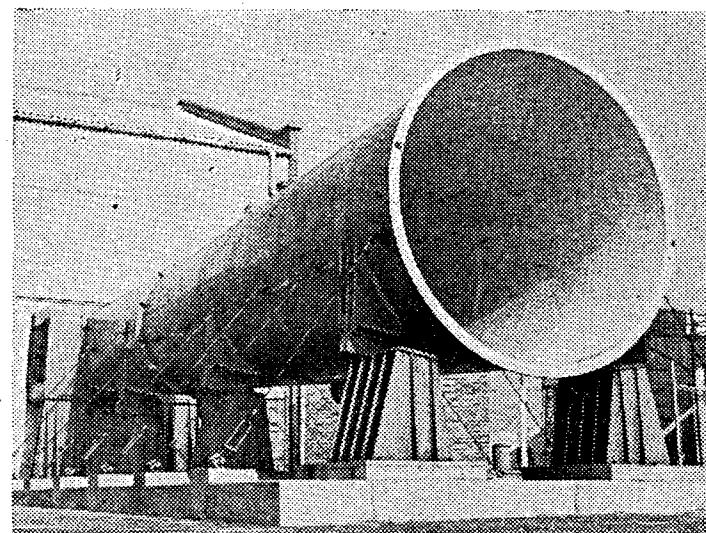
THE special Christmas stamp issued this year in New Zealand reproduces a painting which some of you may have seen. It is Rembrandt's picture of "The Adoration of the Shepherds," which is in the National Gallery, London.

The biggest stamp ever to be issued in New Zealand, it is 1½ inches wide and 1¼ inches deep.

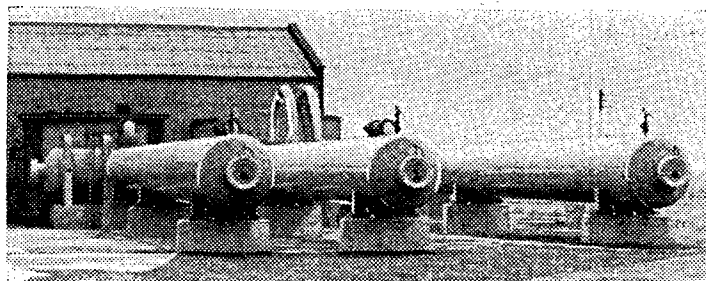


LAST week I mentioned the special postmarks used each Christmas in the Austrian village of Christkindl. Another post office which has a Christmas postmark is the Swiss village named after the birthplace of Jesus—Bethlehem. The example pictured here was used three years ago. C. W. HILL

## WIND-TUNNEL FOR TESTING AIRCRAFT



One of the huge wind-tunnels installed at Warton, Lancashire, for testing aircraft and rockets. They can deliver a stream of air at speeds up to 4,500 miles an hour and are supplied by four storage vessels, (seen below) which hold 15 tons of air at a pressure of 600 lb. to the square inch.



The air storage vessels, each 90 feet long.

### 133 DIFFERENT STAMPS

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## AFTER THE LONG TREK FROM RUSSIA

A colony of 500 Russian men, women, and children known as the Old Believers, has been re-settled in the Paraná State of Brazil by the World Council of Churches.

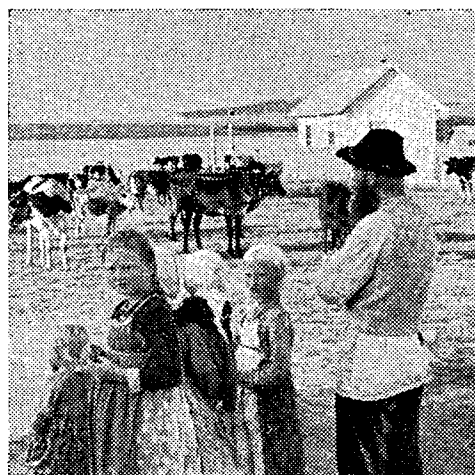
Uprooted from the land of their ancestors, they refuse to give up their peasant ways of life and the way of worship in which they

believe. What was to prove a very long journey, from Europe to South America, began as far back as 1917, the year of the great revolution in Russia, which led to the founding of the Soviet Union.

First they sought refuge and a new home in Siberia. Then they were forced to move into Manchuria until Chinese Communists turned them out of the farms they had established there. Now they have found a home in Brazil.

Sternly devoted to the ancient ways of the old Russian Church the Old Believers cling to their communal farming traditions. They marry only members of their own community. They still copy out long portions of the Bible by hand and paint their home-made ikons (picture-images of saints.)

For two years they have been cultivating 3,000 acres of land in Brazil and now, having founded four villages, see their third harvest of buckwheat, rice, and sweet potatoes beginning to ripen.



Russian family on their farm in Brazil



Happy young Russian in a Brazilian wheatfield

## Victorians at the Museum

A Victorian gentleman arrived at the London Museum the other day, dressed in a splendid red-and-plum-coloured dressing gown, a black-and-gold smoking cap with a black-and-silver tassel, and dark grey slipper-socks. With him came his daughter, in plum-coloured, high-necked calico dress.

And they are there to stay, for they are, in fact, dummies wearing garments found in a trunk which belonged to a British Consul in France 100 years ago. Presented to the Museum by his granddaughter, the clothing is particularly interesting because it is well-preserved everyday wear of the period.

## Progress of a Princess

Princess Anne will soon be putting up a second gold bar on her Brownie's uniform. She has passed the intermediate test which included compass-setting, simple semaphore, knitting, skipping backwards, and passing on a 12-word verbal message five minutes after receiving it.

Already she wears the Swimmer's frog badge, and has set herself to pass her First Class test before next August, when she will be eleven.



# PUZZLE PARADE

## The Christmas Star

ON every tree there hangs a star,  
The symbol of a Royal birth  
Whose guiding light led men afar,  
To see the Christ-child born on  
Earth.  
And children from the whole  
world round,  
Know the story of those men,  
Who bore rare gifts to give a  
King  
Who slept in peace at Bethlehem.  
Who slept in peace in manger stall,  
Where ox and ass knelt in the hay  
And blessed light of shining star,  
Shone on the Christ-child where  
He lay.  
And all the world was filled with  
light,  
When He was born that wondrous  
night.

## MIXED FARE



KUTEYR. ESOGO.  
NECKHIC. UKCD.  
ASTOR-FEBE.  
NICEM-IFE. CIE.  
  
LEFTIR. LYELT.  
TURIF-SALDA.  
ATUSCDR. MACER  
SANDMOL. SIGF.  
SEDAT. SINSAIR.  
LEPAP. RAGEON

HERE are the jumbled names of  
items of Christmas fare. Can  
you unravel all 18?

## PLAYING A WAITING GAME

HERE is a game for any number  
of players. One of them acts  
as a diner and is seated at a table  
with plate, knife, and fork before  
him. The other players are  
"waiters," who form a circle round  
the table.

Each of the two waiters on  
either side of the diner holds a  
plate on which there is a table-  
tennis ball—the "poached egg."  
The game begins by the two racing  
round the circle in an effort  
to be the first to serve the diner

with a poached egg. If the ball  
falls from the plate, it must be  
recovered and replaced, and the  
waiter then carries on. The game  
proceeds until all waiters in the  
circle have taken part.

This game could be carried on  
rather like Musical Chairs, losing  
waiters dropping out until only the  
winner remains.

But in whatever form the game  
is carried on, it will cause great  
fun.

## Making the best of it

LAUGHED a jovial fellow from  
Bow,  
"I hung up my stocking, you  
know.  
And when I awoke, such a capital  
joke,  
All I found was a hole in the toe."

## THREE'S COMPANY

In this word puzzle (a) is a clue to a three-letter word which,  
with another letter added, gives the answer to (b). A further  
letter is added to make a five-letter answer to clue (c).  
Example: fee, feet, fleet.

Answers are given in column 5

- (a) Tap with the palm.  
(b) Well-worn track.  
(c) Repair, or plot of ground.
- (a) Unrefined metal.  
(b) Part of an apple.  
(c) Number of goals.
- (a) Feminine pronoun.  
(b) Worn on the foot.  
(c) Coast.
- (a) Busy little insect.  
(b) Father's sister.  
(c) Sneering remark.
- (a) Hastened on foot.  
(b) Wet weather.  
(c) Instruct.
- (a) Organ of hearing.  
(b) Rank below a marquis.  
(c) Made by an oyster.

## Friends of the carol-singers



R C O O R F F I  
E L L C N G S T  
I R I E A I A M  
R E L A I S N L  
T A S T P A I E

THE carol singers have six dogs  
with them. Start in the  
bottom left-hand corner and move  
to each square to find them.

## NAME IT

MY first is in March and also in  
May,  
My second's in night but not in  
day.  
My third is in lesson and also in  
school,  
My fourth is in tepid but not in  
cool.  
My fifth is in petal and also in  
stalk.  
My sixth is in listen but not in  
talk.  
My seventh's in history and also  
in date,  
My eighth is in portal but not in  
gate.  
My ninth is in stable but not in  
stall—  
My whole, every Christmas-time,  
hangs in the hall!

## Billy puts up the Christmas decorations

THE trouble started when Daddy  
slipped off the ladder while  
putting up the Christmas decorations.  
Now he was staring  
gloomily at the bandaged foot  
propped up on the stool in front  
of him.

"Of all the times to sprain an  
ankle," he complained. "Well,  
it looks as if you must put up  
the decorations, Billy. I shan't  
be able to do it for days."

"Aha, I'm an expert at that,"  
said Billy with a grin.

"That's what I'm worried  
about," said Daddy. "I remem-  
ber you putting them up once  
before—four feet from the  
ground!"

"Don't worry, they'll be perfect  
this year."

About two hours later Billy had  
finished his work in the front  
room, and he was right; they did  
look perfect.

Even Daddy had to admit that  
Billy had done a fine job. "But  
I think you had better move that  
paper ball from above the light—  
the heat could be dangerous."

Billy brought the step ladder

to the centre of the room and  
climbed up. He reached up for  
the ball—and suddenly felt him-  
self slipping. For a moment he  
seemed to balance in space, then  
the ladder slowly tilted over.  
Billy flung out his hand but could  
only grab the chains. Down he  
went with the ladder and decorations  
on top of him.

Daddy leapt out of his chair on  
his one good foot, but Billy was  
not hurt—except for a twisted  
ankle!

And when Mummy returned  
from the shops a little later there  
were the two of them, each with  
a foot on a stool, sitting amid the  
wreckage.

"It looks as if you will have to  
put up the decorations, Mummy,"  
said Billy. "But on second  
thoughts, perhaps you had better  
not. We don't want all three of us  
sitting with our feet on a stool."

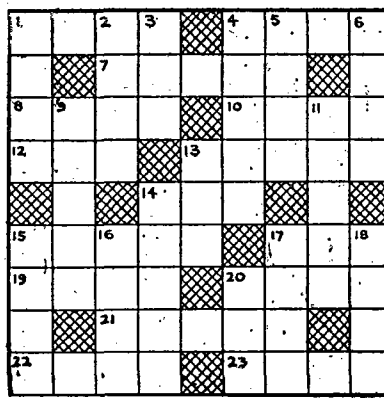
However, well before Christmas  
day, Billy and Daddy were fit  
again and were ready for a very  
merry Christmas.

And that is what they wish all  
CN readers.

## Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 The  
past. 4 Halt. 7 Permit. 8 Stern  
or fierce. 10 Railway track. 12  
Help. 13 Ultimate. 14 Ancient.  
15 Gay. 17 Headwear. 19 Dry.  
20 Post. 21 A crowbar for prising  
open. 22 Always. 23 Canvas  
shelter.

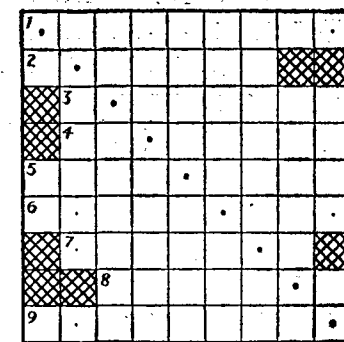
READING DOWN. 1 System of  
Hindu philosophy. 2 Attack.  
3 Tree. 4 Hard throughout.  
5 One of two born at same time.  
6 Strip off the skin. 9 Natural  
stream of water flowing in a  
channel. 11 South African  
Province. 13 Move through the air.  
14 Command. 15 Female horse.  
16 Anger or irritate. 17 Centre.  
18 Turf used as fuel. 20 Favourite.



Answer next week

## THEY ARE HEARD AT CHRISTMAS

Can you, from the clues pro-  
vided, find the nine words needed  
to complete this puzzle? If you  
do so correctly, you will find that  
the letters which occupy the spaces  
bearing a black dot spell the name  
of a group of people familiar at  
this time of the year.



- 1 It comes but once a year
- 2 Always held at Christmas
- 3 They go with a bang
- 4 Hung up on a particular night
- 5 By tradition, brings kisses
- 6 Clothes the world in white
- 7 Throws a friendly light
- 8 Seen on the ice
- 9 Christmas sweetmeats.

## Where were they born?

Here are the names of ten well-  
known composers. Can you say  
in which country each was born?  
BACH; Delius; Tchaikovsky;  
Grieg; Verdi; Purcell; Chopin;  
Liszt; Debussy; Sibelius.

## THE SNAIL

COULD you ever like a snail?  
I could! I love to see his trail.  
Silvery white on soil and stone  
Drawing his patterns all alone,  
Carrying his house around on his  
back  
Like a little old man with a heavy  
pack,  
So brave and venturesome laying  
his trail,  
So whatever you say, I like a snail!

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Mixed Fare. Turkey; goose; chicken;  
duck; roast-beef; mince-  
pie; ice; trifle; jelly; fruit-salad;  
custard; cream; almonds; figs;  
dates; raisins;  
apple; orange.

They are heard at

Christmas

Hidden friends of

the carol-singers.

Terrier; collie;

alsatian; corgi;

spaniel; Mastiff.

Name it. Mistle-

toe. Where were

they born? Bach

— Germany;

Delius—Eng-

land; Tchaikov-

sky — Russia;

Grieg—Nor-

way; Verdi—Italy; Purcell—England;

Chopin—Poland; Liszt—Hungary;

Debussy—France; Sibelius—

Finland.

## THREE'S COMPANY

- 1 pat, path, patch.
- 2 ore, core, score.
- 3 she, shoe, shore.
- 4 ant, aunt, taunt.
- 5 ran, rain, train.
- 6 ear, earl, pearl.





## MCC BEGIN THEIR TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND

FOURTEEN M.C.C. players will be spending Christmas in Auckland, where they begin a 22-match tour of New Zealand on Saturday. This is not an official Test tour, although three four-day representative matches will be played before the team returns home in March.

The party has been chosen with an eye on the future; many of the players are likely Test cricketers of tomorrow, or at least the day after. For these young players the tour will provide invaluable experience.

The "seniors" of the party are skipper Dennis Silk of Somerset, and vice-captain Willie Watson, former Yorkshire Test batsman and now captain of Leicestershire. Watson is the only member of the party who has played in New Zealand before.

Other players who have already represented England in Test cricket are Bob Barber, the Lancashire

captain; Jim Parks, the Sussex wicketkeeper - batsman; Doug Padgett of Yorkshire; and David Allen, the Gloucestershire spinner.

Youngest of the M.C.C. players is 20-year-old David Larter, the 6 ft. 7 in. Northants fast bowler. Others who show great promise are fast bowlers David Smith of Gloucestershire and David Sayer of Kent. Much is also expected of Bob Prideaux, the free-hitting Kent batsman.

Good performances by Eric Russell, the Middlesex opening bat, could win him a place in the England team to meet Australia next Summer; and the same could be true of his county colleague Jim Murray, one of England's most versatile wicketkeepers.

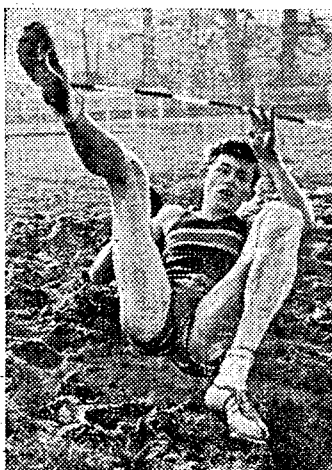
The M.C.C. players are in for a Winter's sunshine—and the New Zealand spectators for a Winter's entertaining cricket.

## Smiling Cheung from Hong Kong



Newest member of the Blackpool team is 19-year-old Cheung Chi Day who comes from Hong Kong. A clever ball-player who is likely to be a great success when he gets used to the English style of play, he is seen here with Stanley Matthews.

## Landing in the sand



Richard Morris, of Walton Athletic Club, lands in the sand during high-jump training at Motspur Park, Surrey.

## John Hewie returns to Britain

It was only a few months ago that we were saying goodbye to John Hewie, the popular Charlton Athletic and Scotland full back, as he returned to his home in South Africa. Now he is back again.

John came to Britain in 1950 and was an immediate success. He was a regular member of Charlton's League team and played 19 times for Scotland (his parents were Scottish).

At the end of last season John decided to return home to establish himself in South African soccer as coach or manager. But the lure of his "second home" was too strong.

## TEACHING DEAF BOYS TO PLAY FOOTBALL

SYD BYCROFT was a familiar name in football circles a few years ago. He played for Doncaster Rovers for many years before becoming the club's coach and manager.

Now he has a new job. He is teaching 50 deaf boys between the ages of 11 and 15 to play football. This new project is in the form of an experiment, and a report on its success is to be made to the Football Association.

## Look out for these young sprinters

WATCH for the name of Daphne Arden next athletics season.

The 18-year-old Birmingham shorthand typist, who wears the colours of Birchfield Harriers, may become Britain's leading woman sprinter. That is the opinion of Bill Marlow, her coach, and the man who trained Peter Radford.

Last Summer Daphne won the Warwickshire 220 yards championship, and recently set up a new time of 7.1 seconds for 60 yards on the Cosford indoor track, beat-

ing the previous record by 1/10th of a second.

Another young sprinter who will be in the news next year is 16-year-old Janet Simpson of Welwyn Athletic Club. Janet's mother, Violet Webb, ran for Britain in two Olympic Games and Janet is determined to do the same.

Like Daphne Arden, Janet has also broken a 60-yard record recently—the Welwyn Gosling Stadium record.

## SPORT SHORTS

ENGLAND will be strongly represented in the international cross-country race being held in Brussels this Tuesday. The team is Gordon Pirie, Stan Eldon, and Harry Minshall, the former Cambridge cross-country captain. On the fast, flat course, the English trio are favourites to win the team title.

COLIN COWDREY will soon be getting down to practice for next season's cricket—but not with the baseball bat he was given while in New York recently. The bat was presented to him for lecturing on the difference between cricket and baseball to a meeting of business executives. "They were completely flummoxed," said Colin.

NEW ZEALANDER Paul Jerard, playing for a Christchurch team, went in to bat with a box of matches in his trouser pocket. He had only been at the wicket for a short time when a ball hit him on the thigh—and set the box alight! He escaped with a slight scorching and resumed his innings.

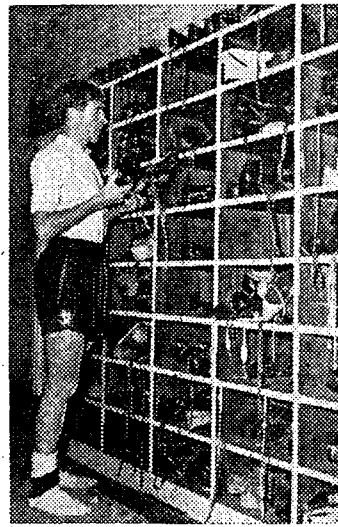
EARLY next year a team of five players from Eton is going for a fortnight's playing tour of Northern Nigeria. Since the first five court was built there by an Englishman 40 years ago, the game has become one of the most popular in Northern Nigeria.

WHEN he is not studying soccer tactics, Leicester City winger Howard Riley is studying his textbooks. Howard will soon be taking his "A" level G.C.E. and hoping to go to Loughborough College and win a Physical Education Certificate.

THE F. T. Bidlake Memorial Plaque, awarded annually to Britain's most outstanding cyclist, has been won for the second time by Mrs. Beryl Burton of Morley, Yorkshire. She is holder of the world road racing and track pursuit titles.

A 115-FOOT-HIGH 'mountain' is to be built in Wembley Stadium next Summer. It will be for an international ski-jumping contest to be held on 31st May and 1st June. Expert jumpers from ten countries have been invited to take part. The snow, imported from Norway and Scotland, will be treated with chemicals to prevent it melting.

## FROM THE RACK



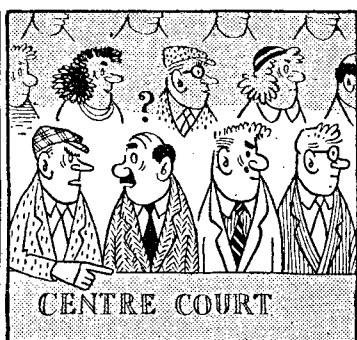
Danny Blanchflower, skipper of Tottenham Hotspur, takes his boots from the rack before a practice game at White Hart Lane.

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